

**Summer Internship Report 2017**

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**Provide an overview of the organization/research project and a summary of your responsibilities, tasks, and/or projects.**

I was interning on a film shooting, mostly attending the "production" part of the process. A film is made in a three-step procedure. First the pre-production involves script development and planning the shooting of the film (selecting location, hiring crew etc.). In the production phase, the actual shooting is done and the raw material of the scenes is recorded. In post-production, they cut the scenes together, mix the sound, and add any effects or color grading the director wants. The production part is the most complex and active of all parts. It involves a large crew working together, preparing for different shots of different scenes. I, as a production assistant, kept connections between different groups; camera, sound, or video, and made sure that the different groups were sure of their responsibilities at the moment. I also helped maintain connection with the base location where the producers are working, relaying information from one place to another. I also assisted with closing down locations, making sure there was no pedestrian or car traffic which could interfere with the shots.

**During your internship, what did you accomplish or how did you make a difference? In what ways did you grow in your professional and technical skills?**

I felt like even in such a big group of people, I was able to make myself useful, and become a small, but important part of the production. I had the opportunity to connect and speak with people of all roles on the production, and find out a lot about how the different parts of production work together to help each other and make the production process easier and smoother. I was able to learn about each of the three main production sections, namely the camera, the sound, and the video department,

as I was helping them, whether my job was something as easy, but essential, as carrying cables or something more complex.

**Describe a problem that you helped to solve at your internship. What skills or knowledge from your education at Sewanee helped you address the problem?**

One day a smaller workgroup on the set, the team who was making the workfilm (behind the scenes film) experienced a shortage of personnel, and I was called over to assist. It was interesting to see how this little group worked separately, but still very closely with the production. In addition to recording how the shots are made, we also interviewed various personnel on the set, mainly actors, and for this reason, we often had to look out for the off-periods of the shooting, when the technical crews are rearranging the cameras and lights for a different shot, and the actors have a little off time. We mostly used these times to record the interviews, and I was tasked with finalizing the time schedules for the mini-interviews, and making sure it was approved with the overall production schedule. Over the three day period I was assigned to this group, we managed to make interviews with 5 out of the 15 main actors, while the number of total production days was 35.

**In what way were your teamwork skills strengthened?**

Arriving to the film set I barely knew anyone, so I had to work quickly to get to know everybody as soon as possible since I was going to work with them for a rather long period during an often challenging period. I found that I was able to connect rather easily with some of my colleagues. Since we had to work together to make the shooting as efficient as possible, the production team really tried their best to help each other, even if it was something as small as getting a bottle of water for someone, or rushing to buy new props. In these situations it was essential not only to do our own job, but let others or our superiors know what we are doing so they can further assign other tasks, and keep everything flowing smoothly.

**How did your internship affect your career plans?**

I have never been on a film set for such a long time, let alone work closely with them. I was able to learn and find out many things about the career paths that are possible in this complex and diverse line of work. I spoke with dozens of people of different ages, jobs, and interests, all who were able to interest me in their specific areas of work to a various extent. This experience helped me become more interested in film, and left me with the dedicated wish to find a similar opportunity in the United States next summer, and take this career into serious consideration after my graduation from Sewanee.

**In what ways did your internship cause you to encounter people of different backgrounds from your own? What steps did you take to communicate effectively with such persons? What did you learn from such persons' perspectives?**

I had the opportunity to meet, and interact with a lot of people on the set. It was astounding to see how differently they approached the film industry, and how they viewed their place in it. The many different aspects needed to put a film together gathered a very interesting crowd. While talking to many people, I found out that for many, joining the film industry was not necessarily a planned career path, just an opportunity, or a summer job came along, and they stuck with it. For some, however, it was clear that this is what they want to do, like stuntmen and actors. On the other hand, our director was originally a dentist before taking up his current line of work. These experiences helped me understand how different people have their own ideas and wishes about how the film industry can be, and how they can work to achieve them.

**Words of thanks to your internship funding donors:**

I would like to thank my donors for making innumerable possibilities open up for Sewanee students. For some, the donations made the internship possible by helping to fund accommodations or travel, for others, it will serve future purposes. While some of my funds went towards costs during my internship, such as food or travel, the majority will greatly help my further studies at Sewanee. Whether if it will help me fund a study abroad program in the Spring semester of 2018, help me do an internship next summer, shoot an independent film in my senior year, or perhaps go towards even further goals, I really appreciate the selflessness and kindness of our donors, who help students like me to get closer to their dreams.

**Words of advice for future interns (housing, transportation, etc.)?**

If you are looking for a job in film production, it might be different from what you think. Film industry tends to be closed, and opportunities to work are scarce. If you will be working in production, be prepared for long workdays starting as early as 4 a.m., and lasting until 7 p.m., or night shots starting at 1 a.m. Transportation can be tricky as location shots will vary and might be hard to reach.